

Name:

Date:

StoryCorps Project

Introduction

You will work on a StoryCorps assignment that allows you to explore the skill of storytelling as well as the skill of interviewing. As you have seen (or heard) in previous examples of StoryCorps stories, there are some common principles behind each story: One person describes an impactful moment(s) in his/her life through an interview with a family member, friend, or acquaintance. For this assignment, you will create a StoryCorps story of your own. In fact, you will work on two -- one as an **interviewer** (the person doing the interview) and one as an **interviewee** (the person being interviewed).

Summary of Assignment

- 1) You will work on **two StoryCorps stories** with a partner of your choice (it can be **anyone** in the 7th grade!):
 - a) You will **interview your partner** for one of the stories.
 - b) **Your partner will interview you** for the other story.
- 2) Each story should focus on a **value**, one that has had a big impact in the person's life. (ex. Family, friendship, courage, respect, honesty, etc.)
- 3) After finishing both interviews, you will need to listen to the interview you conducted with your partner (i.e. **where you asked the questions**) to select what you think is the best part of that interview. When you send your interview to your teacher, you will tell Mr. Green or Ms. Peale which part of the interview s/he should listen to.
 - a) For example: "Please listen to the interview from 1:15-2:32."

Requirements

As the INTERVIEWEE (person being interviewed):

- Talk about a meaningful moment in your life in an interview with another student that relates to a particular value
- Speak clearly
- Elaborate -- avoid monosyllabic (one syllable) answers and responding with "I don't know"
- Take yourself and your story seriously -- this is not a time to be an entertainer or a clown, but to reflect on an important moment in your life

*As the **INTERVIEWER** (person doing the interview):*

- Choose a theme, and then choose a specific topic to talk to your partner about. You may need to talk to your partner about some values that are important to him or her.
- Talk to your partner: Tell him/her the theme you will be focusing on in the interview -- do not give any details other than the theme; the interview should be as authentic as possible (i.e. the story is not planned out ahead of time)
- Prepare and ask interesting, thoughtful questions about the topic
- Stay focused
- Ask follow-up questions where appropriate
- Listen, and be patient -- it may take some time for your partner to open up to you
- Take yourself out of the story -- The **story** is the focus, not the interviewer

*As both **Interviewer and Interviewee***

- Write a **reflection** on the StoryCorps process. Ms. Peale and Mr. Green will provide this for each student. The reflections will ask a few different questions, such as:
 - What was different about the experience of being interviewed vs. interviewing him/her?
 - Which did you prefer? Why?
 - What would you have done differently if you did it over again?

Due Dates

Monday, December 7: Choose your partner for the project

Tuesday, December 8: Write out the questions for your StoryCorps project

Thursday, December 10: StoryCorps project is due